



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q77369

Minoru USUI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/662,397

Confirmation No.: 1476

Group Art Unit: 2856

Filed: September 16, 2003

Examiner: Paul WEST

For: LIQUID CONSUMPTION STATUS DETECTING METHOD, LIQUID CONTAINER,  
AND INK CARTRIDGE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

English Abstracts of foreign language documents are being submitted herewith, and these abstracts constitute concise explanations for such foreign language documents.


**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**U.S. Appln. No.: 10/662,397**

**Atty Dkt No. Q77369**

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey A. Schmidt  
Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 9, 2006

|                                    |  |  |                    |                    |            |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO |  | <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |                    | Complete if Known  |            |
|                                    |  |  |                    | Application Number | 10/662,397 |
|                                    |  | Confirmation Number  | 1476               |                    |            |
|                                    |  | Filing Date  | September 16, 2003 |                    |            |
|                                    |  | First Named Inventor   | Minoru USUI        |                    |            |
|                                    |  | Art Unit   | 2856               |                    |            |
|                                    |  | Examiner Name  | Paul WEST          |                    |            |
|                                    |  | Attorney Docket Number   | Q77369             |                    |            |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number |                                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
|                    |                       | Number          | Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US 6,745,626    | B2                                   | 6/8/2004                       | Usui et al.                                     |
|                    |                       | US 6,729,184    | B2                                   | 5/4/2004                       | Tsukada et al.                                  |
|                    |                       | US 6,089,688    | A                                    | 7/18/2000                      | Froger et al.                                   |
|                    |                       | US 6,799,820    | B1                                   | 10/5/2004                      | Usui et al.                                     |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |                     |                                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       | JP                        | 8-314327            | A                                    | 11/29/1996                     |   | Abstract                 |
|                    |                       | JP                        | 57-208260           | A                                    | 12/21/1982                     |   | Abstract                 |
|                    |                       | JP                        | 11-286121           | A                                    | 10/19/1999                     |   | Abstract                 |
|                    |                       | JP                        | 59-187227           |                                      | 10/24/1984                     |   | Abstract                 |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |   |                          |

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
|                    |                       |  |                          |
|                    |                       |  |                          |
|                    |                       |  |                          |
|                    |                       |  |                          |
|                    |                       |  |                          |

|                    |  |                 |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.